

AN IMPORTANT BIOGRAPHY.—Every botanist, as well as others who are interested in the development of that science, and many more who enjoy getting intimately into touch with a great and lovable man, will want the account of John Torrey by the experienced biographer, Andrew Denny Rodgers III¹. Torrey, a pioneer in American botany and, at the same time, an investigator in chemistry, was the revered teacher of and, later, collaborator with Asa Gray. He was in close touch with all prominent and less known botanists of his time and the voluminous long-hand correspondence from which Mr. Rodgers has freely drawn gives us a vivid picture of a man as simple and sincere as he was great, if there is any difference. The biography is skillfully and sympathetically prepared. Many readers of RHODORA will want it.—M. L. F.

NEW COMBINATION IN PYRUS.—Prior to a publication on the woody plants of Maine, it appears desirable to publish the following new combination:

PYRUS **decora** (Sarg.), comb. nov. *P. americana* var. *decora* Sargent, Sylva N. Am. **14**: 101, 1902. *Sorbus decora* (Sarg.) Schneider, Bull. Herb. Boiss. II. **6**: 313, 1906; G. N. Jones, Journ. Arnold Arb. **20**: 25, 1939.—F. HYLAND, University of Maine.

¹ *John Torrey, a Story of North American Botany*, by ANDREW DENNY RODGERS III. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1942, 352 pp. Price \$3.75.

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